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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

DEQ TO FIND "NEW HOME" FOR UNUSED PAINT

(Baton Rouge) -- On April 26, 2003, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will hold the 21st Annual Greater Baton Rouge Household Hazardous Material Collection Day and Paint Swap. The collection day is a collaborative effort sponsored by DEQ, the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge, and Dow Chemical Company. DEQ employees will help with household hazardous materials disposal and will collect leftover paint between 8:00 a.m. and 12 noon at Memorial Stadium.

Every since 1985, when DEQ helped initiate the program, DEQ employees have volunteered for the household hazardous waste collection but in the mid 90s, DEQ began the Paint Swap. The objective of the swap is to extend the lifeline of unused paint, stains, varnishes and thinners and make them available to non-profit organizations, charities, churches, schools, and redevelopment projects for their use.

"For the last couple of years we have been able to find new homes for all these home finishing products," said Karen Fisher-Brasher, DEQ Recycling Supervisor. "One year a mission team bound for Mexico took the last of it. Last year, the last couple of buckets went to the City for a graffiti remediation project." Fisher-Brasher also said that last year about 140 five-gallon buckets were given away.

(more)

Residents can bring leftover paint and varnish to the paint swap where DEQ volunteers screen the paint for quality and type. If it is latex of good quality, it is stirred in its original can and then poured into five-gallon buckets and further blended. The remixed items must be picked up on April 26th between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Anyone wanting the blended paints should call Teresa Edwards at 225.765-0149 or fax DEQ, Attn: Recycling at 225.765.0222.

Information about recycling, paint disposal and common potentially hazardous materials in the home is available at the DEQ website at www.ldeq.org/assistance/index.htm or by calling the DEQ Environmental Assistance Division at 225.765.0149.